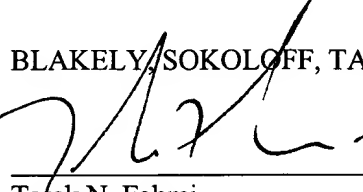


rate of a router is increased at a time corresponding to the onset of congestion for the router. Thus, the present invention is patentable over Lin which neither teaches nor suggests, whether considered alone or in light of the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, the present method.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 12/27, 2002


Tafek N. Fahmi
Reg. No. 41,402

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 947-8200

VERSION OF CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:

1. (Amended) A method, comprising temporarily increasing [a buffer size] an effective serving rate, for a router configured to receive and transmit packets [transmitted through] in a communications network at a time instant corresponding to an onset of congestion of the router [for a time period].
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein increasing the [buffer size] effective serving rate comprises providing an auxiliary storage area for packets that would otherwise be stored in a queue at the router.
3. (Unchanged) The method of claim 2 wherein the auxiliary storage area is associated with a physical storage device external to the router.
4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the effective serving rate is increased for a time period [comprises] comprising approximately a round-trip time interval for a packet transmitted in the network.